

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 /074 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RPTTUS:FEW

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS

COMMERCE/BEWT - MR. J. ELLIS (INFO)

EB/TT/OA - MR. C. DUDLEY (INFO)

----- 122920

R 151652Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, ETRN, SGEN, CGEN, BU

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 12 VISIT TO DEPARTMENT BY AMBASSADOR

POPOV

1. AMBASSADOR POPOV CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE (EUR) ON NOVEMBER 12 FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BEFORE RETURNING TO SOFIA ON NOVEMBER 14 FOR TWENTY OR THIRTY DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS. HE SAID HIS MAIN PURPOSE IN RETURNING HOME IS TO TALK WITH COMMERCIAL OFFICIALS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE PROFESSOR IVAN POPOV'S U.S. VISIT.

2. AMBASSADOR POPOV WAS MAINLY INTERESTED IN PENDING TRADE LEGISLATION. ARMITAGE TOLD HIM TRADE BILL WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS NEXT WEEK AND WE ARE HOPEFUL IT WILL BE PASSED BY MID-DECEMBER ALONG WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENABLING LEGISLATION ON EXIM LOAN AUTHORITY. ARMITAGE

NOTED THAT THERE IS QUESTION WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE RESTRICTION ON AMOUNT OF LOANS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, BUT ADDED THAT EFFORT STILL BEING MADE TO WORK OUT AGREED POSITION IN CONGRESS GIVING PRESIDENT DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO EXCEED LIMIT SET BY LEGISLATION. POPOV ASKED WHAT CEILING ON LOANS WOULD BE; ARMITAGE REPLIED IT WAS NOT EXACTLY A CEILING BUT A CONGRESSIONALLY APPROVED LEVEL, CONSIDERED RIGHT NOW TO BE AROUND \$300 MILLION, WHICH PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO EXCEED. ARMITAGE ALSO

COMMENTED ON WAIVER PROVISION IN LEGISLATION WHICH WILL INVOLVE SOME FORMULA BY WHICH EXTENSION OF MFN WILL BE TIED TO EMIGRATION POLICIES OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR POPOV DISCUSS THIS ASPECT OF TRADE LEGISLATION WITH COLLEAGUES AND AMB. HERZ IN SOFIA. BULGARIA'S DIVIDED FAMILIES SITUATION SEEMS NOT TO BE PROBLEM OF GREAT NUMBERS BUT CONGRESS WILL WANT ASSURANCE THAT SITUATION SATISFACTORY. POPOV TOOK VIEW NOW FAMILIAR FROM EMBASSY SOFIA'S REPORTS THAT OUR ESTIMATE OF OVER FIFTY DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES IS TOO HIGH. IN CLOSING DISCUSSION ON THE TRADE BILL, ARMITAGE INFORMED POPOV OF PROPOSED GURNEY-CHILES AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH CONNECTION BETWEEN EXTENSION OF MFN AND EACH COUNTRY'S COOPERATION WITH US EFFORTS TO GAIN NORTH VIET NAM COOPERATION ON MIA QUESTION.

3. BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL OFFICES. ARMITAGE TOLD POPOV WE WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL TRADE OFFICES HERE AND HOPE TO HAVE POSITION SOON. HE SUGGESTED BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT ASSIST IN MUTUAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR TRADE PROMOTION BY ISSUING MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS TO US BUSINESSMEN WHO MAKE FREQUENT TRIPS TO BULGARIA AND BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN FIRMS TO OPEN OWN BRANCH OFFICES IN BULGARIA WHEN SIZE OF THEIR BUSINESS AND OTHER CONDITIONS WARRANT. POPOV OBSERVED THAT GRANTING OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS WOULD HAVE TO BE GENERAL (PRESUMABLY MEANING NOT RESTRICTED TO ONE CLASS OR NATIONALITY AMONG BUSINESSMEN) AND SAID U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAD NO PROBLEMS ANYWAY, SINCE HE AND OTHER AMBASSADORS COULD HAVE VISAS ISSUED IMMEDIATELY UPON BEING INFORMED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR COMMERCIAL COUNSELORS THAT TRIPS WERE FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES. (COMMENT: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE TO BRING TO POPOV'S ATTENTION INCONVENIENCE TO BUSINESSMEN HERE IN HAVING TO SEND PASSPORTS OR TRAVEL PERSONALLY TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO GET NEW VISAS BEFORE EACH TRIP TO BULGARIA, AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS FOR U.S. BUSINESSMEN RETURNING TO BULGARIA FROM OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. END COMMENT). POPOV SAID LITTLE ON BUSINESS REPRESENTATION

SUBJECT BUT CITED FMC TEAM IN PLOVDIV AS EXAMPLE OF U.S. FIRM ACTING DIRECTLY WITH ITS BULGARIAN CUSTOMERS THROUGH MORE-OR-LESS RESIDENT U.S. EMPLOYEES. POPOV ALSO MENTIONED IN PASSING \$10 PER DAY SPENDING REQUIREMENT FOR VISITORS TO BULGARIA (REPORTED IN SOFIA'S 2052), SAID THIS IN-SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS PRACTICALLY ONLY LIMITATION ON TRAVELERS' ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA, WHERE EVEN TOURISTS CAN CONDUCT BUSINESS. ARMITAGE SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF ABOVE TOPICS WITH AMBASSADOR HERZ ALSO.

4. BULGARIAN DRAFTS OF VARIOUS AGREEMENTS. REFERRING TO DRAFT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURAL, CULTURAL, NAVIGATION AND AVIATION AGREEMENTS WHICH BULGARIANS HAVE GIVEN US, POPOV ASKED HOW WE FELT ABOUT THEM. ARMITAGE SAID THAT RIGHT NOW AIR AGREEMENTS WITH ANYONE WERE A PROBLEM BUT WE WILL BE LOOKING AT ALL THE DRAFT AGREEMENTS MORE CLOSELY ONCE THE TRADE BILL AND ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION ARE BEHIND US. POPOV MENTIONED GREAT INCREASE IN OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS BULGARIANS HAD BEEN PROCESSING SINCE START OF CYPRUS CRISIS, PARTICULARLY NOTING PANAM FLIGHTS FROM WEST BERLIN, AND SAID BULGARIANS HAD "ON WHOLE" BEEN COOPERATIVE. HE ADDED THAT AN AIR AGREEMENT, A LEGAL DECLARATION WHICH "DOESN'T MEAN MUCH", WOULD FACILITATE OPERATIONS SUCH AS PANAM'S IN USUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID BULGARIANS DO NOT INTEND NOW TO OPEN A ROUTE TO NEW YORK, BUT IF THINGS DEVELOP WELL THERE MAY BE ENOUGH TOURIST BUSINESS FROM BULGARIA TO JUSTIFY ONE FLIGHT A MONTH AND BULGARIA WOULD LIKE EVENTUALLY TO GIVE AMERICAN TOURISTS CHOICE OF FLYING DIRECTLY TO SOFIA INSTEAD OF BEING ROUTED THROUGH PRAGUE OR OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES. IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS IN FUTURE, BULGARIA WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE AIR AGREEMENT SOON.

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5. POPOV INQUIRED PERFUNCTORILY WHETHER THERE WOULD BE NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS AFTER PASSAGE OF TRADE BILL. ARMITAGE SAID IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO EXCHANGE NOTES OR OTHERWISE BRING EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENT INTO FULL CONFORMITY WITH TRADE BILL. POPOV ALSO ASKED ABOUT ROMANIAN CASE, WAS TOLD NEGOTIATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY.

6. BOTH AT BEGINNING OF DISCUSSION AND IN HIS FINAL COMMENTS, AMBASSADOR POPOV FIRMLY STATED THAT CHANGES IN BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT, REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO IVAN POPOV'S MOVE TO COUNCIL OF STATE AND HIS REPLACEMENT AS DEPUTY PREMIER BY OGNYAN DOYNOV, DID NOT SIGNIFY CHANGE IN BULGARIAN POLICY TOWARD US OR DEMOTION OF PROFESSOR POPOV. HE SAID APPOINTMENTS REFLECTED BASIC POLICY OF PUTTING

MORE MATURE OFFICIALS (POPOV) IN PRIMARILY POLICY MAKING POSITIONS AND YOUNGER ONES (DOYNOV) IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS. HE SAID STATE COUNCIL IS ENGAGED MORE AND MORE IN LONG TERM POLI-Y MAKING, INCLUDING FIVE YEAR PLANS, AND AS LONG AS POPOV IS ON POLITBURO HIS POSITION CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING CHANGED.

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